CLAIMS

1.   A font memory in which a plurality of groups of font data
having different resolutions and represented by a dot pattern
are stored for respective character codes, comprising:

5   a plurality of first input terminals for input of
character specifying address signals that specify the font
data corresponding to a character code;
            a plurality of second input terminals for input of
resolution level signals that specify resolution levels of the
10   font data; and

            a plurality of output terminals through which the font
data in accordance with the input of said first input terminals
and said second input terminals is output, wherein,

            based on character specifying address signals input from
15   said first input terminals and resolution level signals input
from said second input terminals, font data that corresponds
to the character codes specified by the character specifying
address signals and corresponds to the resolution levels
specified by the resolution level signals is output from the
20   output terminals.

2.   A font memory in which a plurality of groups of font data
having different resolutions and represented by a dot pattern
are stored for respective character codes, comprising:

25   a plurality of first input terminals for input of

character specifying address signals that specify the font data corresponding to a character code;

a plurality of first output terminals through which the font data in accordance with the input of said first input

5   terminals is output; and

a plurality of second output terminals through which resolution level signals representing a resolution level of the font data are output, wherein,

the resolution level is sequentially altered at a

10   predetermined timing and, in addition to font data corresponding to the character code specified by the character specifying address signals and corresponding to the resolution level being output from said first output terminals, resolution signals representing the resolution level are

15   output from said second output terminals.

3.   The font memory according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ further comprising a plurality of density level output terminals through which density level signals specifying density levels

20   when the dot patterns are displayed is output, wherein,

based on the number of dots in the dot pattern, a density level is calculated when the dot pattern is displayed and density level signals specifying the calculated density level are output from said density level output terminals.

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4.   The font memory according to ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein an exclusive address is given to each dot forming the dot pattern, and the font data is information representing the dot pattern using the address exclusive to a particular dot.

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5.   The font memory according to ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein the dot pattern is divided by a first division unit into a plurality of pattern areas, an address for identifying the relevant pattern area is allocated to each of the created

10   pattern areas, each pattern area divided by the first division unit is further divided by a second division unit into a plurality of pattern areas, and an address for identifying the relevant pattern area is allocated to each of the pattern areas created using the second division unit, and wherein the font

15   data is information representing the dot pattern using the addresses obtained by repeating the above division and address allocation thereafter for an optional number of times.

6.   The font memory according to ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein

20   the dot pattern is divided into quarter pattern areas, two bit addresses 00, 01, 10, and 11 are allocated to each of the created pattern areas, each created pattern area is further divided into quarter pattern areas, and two bit addresses 00, 01, 10, and 11 are further allocated to each of the created pattern

25   areas, and wherein the font data is information representing

the dot pattern using the addresses obtained by repeating the above division and address allocation thereafter for an optional number of times.

5   7.   A font data reading method/wherein, based on character specifying address signals for specifying font data corresponding to the character codes/and on resolution level signals specifying a resolution level of the font data,/font data corresponding to the character codes specified by the

10   character specifying address signals and corresponding to a resolution level specified by the resolution level signals/is read from an information storage medium/on which is stored a plurality of groups of font data having different resolutions and represented by a dot pattern are stored for respective

15   character codes.